

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07
NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
SS-15 AGRE-00 L-03 H-01 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01 HA-05
AF-10 /088 W

-----126844 221701Z /43

O R 221607Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5633

INFO EC COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 7567

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USSEC

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC US DA

SUBJ: US-EC PRESIDENCY DIALOG: AGENDA FOR POLITICAL DIRECTORS'
MEETING, COPENHAGEN, JAN 10-11

1. OUR CONVERSATION TODAY (DEC 22) WITH MFA EC PRESIDENCY OFFICER JORGEN BOJER KICKED OFF THE BEGINNING OF THE US-EC DIALOG WITH THE DANES IN THE PRESIDENCY CHAIR. SEPTTEL PROVIDES SOME BACKGROUND ON WHAT THE DANES BELIEVE WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEM, CONSIDERATION OF THE BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE. THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES THE OTHER ITEMS ON THE POL DIRECTORS' AGENDA.

2. BOJER PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT, EXCEPT FOR CSCE, THE AGENDA WAS QUITE LOOSE. HE NOTED THAT THERE WILL HAVE BEEN NO EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS -- WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CSCE HEADS OF DELEGATION -- BETWEEN THE POL DIRECTORS' LAST MEETING UNDER THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY (DEC 13-14) AND THEIR FIRST MEETING UNDER THE DANISH PRESIDENCY. FURTHERMORE, BOJER ADDED, PART OF THE JAN 10-11 MEETING WILL OBVIOUSLY BE TAKEN UP IN SETTLING INTO THE NEW PRESIDENCY AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE FLUID SITUATION

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IN THE MID EAST, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. MIDDLE EAST: THE FIRST AGENDA ITEM OF CONSIDERATION BY POL DIRECTORS. IN SPITE OF THE RUSH OF EVENTS, BOJER SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE TO MAKE SOME GENERAL COMMENTS ON WHAT THE DANES WOULD EXPECT FROM THE POL DIRECTORS DISCUSSION. BOJER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE DANES OF THE MAINTENANCE OF A COMMON EC

POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND RECALLED THAT THE NINE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD TOGETHER SINCE THEIR DECLARATION OF NOV 6, 1973.

4. ONE OF THE NEW ASPECTS, BOJER CONTINUED, IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH HE WULD EXPECT THE POL DIRECTORS TO ADDRESS IS THE PRESENT "TRIANGULAR BALANCE" AMONG THE ISRAELIS, THE MODERATE ARABS AND THE REJECTIONISTS.

5. BOJER SAID THAT THE DANES DO NOT EXPECT A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO COME OUT OF THIS MEETING; IN FACT, THEY WISH TO AVOID ONE AND BELIEVE THAT LAST JUNE'S DELCARATION BY THE NINE IS STILL ESSENTIALLY VALID. THE DANES DO LOOK FOR AGREEMENT AMONG THE POL DIRECTORS ON SOME "GUIDELINES" FOR POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS.

6. SOUTHERN AFRICA: BOJER ANTICIPATES MOSTLY AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG THE POL DIRECTORS. NO SPECIFIC POINTS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED AMONG THE NINE. BOJER BELIEVES THAT THE DISCUSSION WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE STATE OF PLAY IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA BUT DOES NOT THINK THAT MUCH ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID TO SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. BOJER REMARKED THAT THE CODE OF CONDUCT IS PRETTY MUCH IN TRAIN, ALTHOUGH SOME DETAILS REMAIN TO BE DEFINED AT THE EXPERS LEVEL. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE NINE SEEM TO WANT TO WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE EFFECT ON SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE AS THE RESULT OF THE VARIOUS MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN. BOJER DOES EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT LATER DURING THE DANISH PRESIDENCY THE NINE WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE TO FOCUS ON WHAT SORTS OF NON-ECONOMIC PRESSURES MIGHT BE EMPLOYED.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS: BOJER DOES NOT LOOK FOR MUCH OF A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE WHICH, HE BELIEVES, WILL PRIMARILY TURN AROUND CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER THE NINE SHOULD ESTABLISH A SPECIAL EXPERTS GROUP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. SUCH A GROUP WOULD HAVE AS ITS MANDATE THE CONSIDERATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WHICH APPARENTLY NOW POP UP HERE AND THERE AMONG THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED EXPERTS GROUPS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770478-0096
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 148947
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-EC PRESIDENCY DIALOG: AGENDA FOR POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING, COPENHAGEN, JAN 10-11
TAGS: PORG, US, DA, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/821b49fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009